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Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee January, 2011

EMSA Awards: Four EMS providers from San Diego received awards at the state Emergency Medical Services Commission meeting in San Francisco December 1, 2010. The awards were created to honor and recognize noteworthy or exceptional acts or service. The San Diego honorees were:

Chris Olson: Meritorious Service Medal, "For providing superior EMS service and innovation for over 35 years in San Diego County."

Paul Santos: Meritorious Service Medal, "For meritorious performance of rescue on 1 April 2010."

Anne Marie Jensen: Community Service Award, "For providing dedicated community service in organizing EMS social networking opportunities."

Kevin Riutzel: Community Service Award, "For providing dedicated community service organizing public access defibrillation programs in San Diego County."

Nominations are made to the state EMS Authority. Nominations may be made at any time, but are now open for the year 2010. For more information go to the award website at <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/about/awards/default.asp>. Let us know at EMS if you need any assistance. This is an opportunity to see that the many wonderful providers in the system are honored for their work.

Paradise Valley stroke: Paradise Valley Hospital is now approved to receive patients with acute stroke. They went online on December 24, 2010. Please join us in congratulating them and welcoming them in this role.

Stroke patient IVs size: The stroke personnel at the hospitals are requesting at least an 18 gauge IV be used when IVs are started on acute stroke patients. This will facilitate the administration of contrast for CT and other types of imaging (x-ray) studies. Remember also to make sure any witness goes to the hospital who can determine the time of the stroke onset.

UCSD LVAD program: The UC San Diego hospitals started a left ventricular assist device program. UC system patients with LVAD devices should be taken to Thornton Hospital or, if unable the primary option would be the Hillcrest hospital. Sharp Memorial has experience with LVAD for UCSD patients who cannot make it to one of the UC hospitals.

Alvarado Hospital sold: Prime Healthcare, the operators of Paradise Valley Hospital, purchased Alvarado Hospital. There are extensive personnel and operations changes occurring, but the changes are not believed to affect the emergency department.

AEMT program approved: The EMSTA training program has been approved to begin instruction in the new advanced EMT program. They are working on several details, but should have information on the new program. Service providers will be able to apply for designation as an AEMT provider agency. The priority is to develop programs in rural or remote areas.

“Spice” Ingestions: Spice is a so-called synthetic cannabis that mimics the effects of cannabis. Several cases were seen recently with agitation and tachycardia that may reflect the high dose, or some additional substance such as plants or herbs. The Poison Center reports a number of cases with hallucinations and “bad trips,” with copious emesis. Midazolam is indicated for usual indications, including severe agitation. Contact Susan Smith at EMS with any cases.

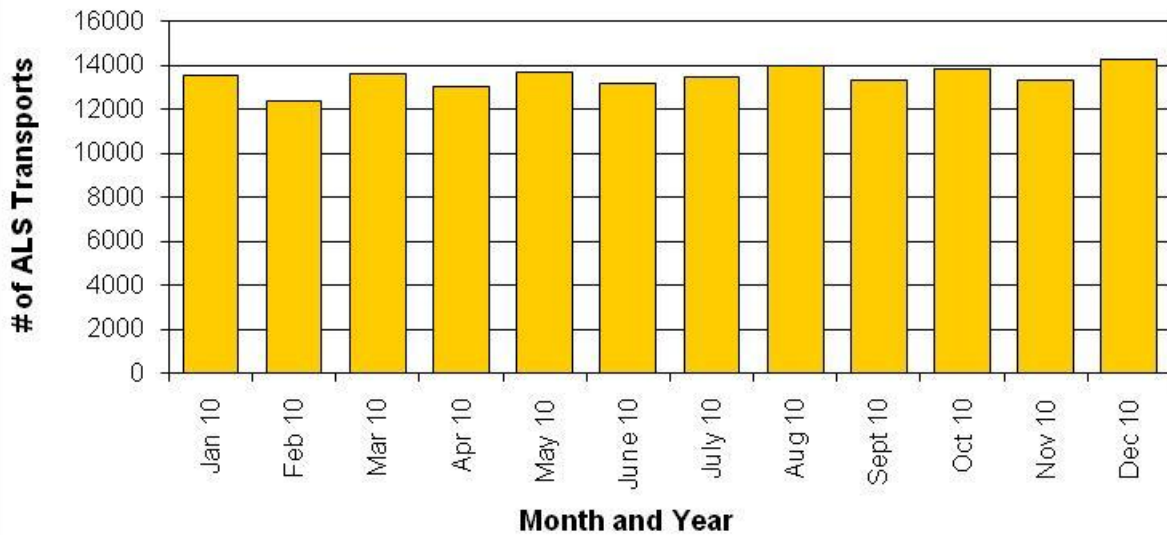
Influenza season: Influenza has not been prominent in the community to this point in the season. The percent of ED visits for Influenza-like illness at the monitored hospitals was 5%, higher than last year’s 4%. Influenza vaccination for EMS personnel remains important both to prevent transmission of virus to patients, and maintaining a well workforce. The San Diego County Medical Association GERM Commission recommends that influenza vaccination be mandatory for all healthcare personnel.

Pertussis: The county’s confirmed cases totaled 1,125 for last year. Two infants in the county died of pertussis last year. Already in 2011 there have been 6 cases equal to last year and compared to 1 for January 2009. Tdap vaccine is important for healthcare/EMS workers as well. New mandatory vaccination requirements for schools will be effective next July. Free pertussis vaccine is available at Northgate markets during January weekends from 10 am until 4 pm. More information is available at the Immunization Branch website at <http://www.sdiz.org/>.

Norovirus: Several outbreaks have occurred. See last month’s Report

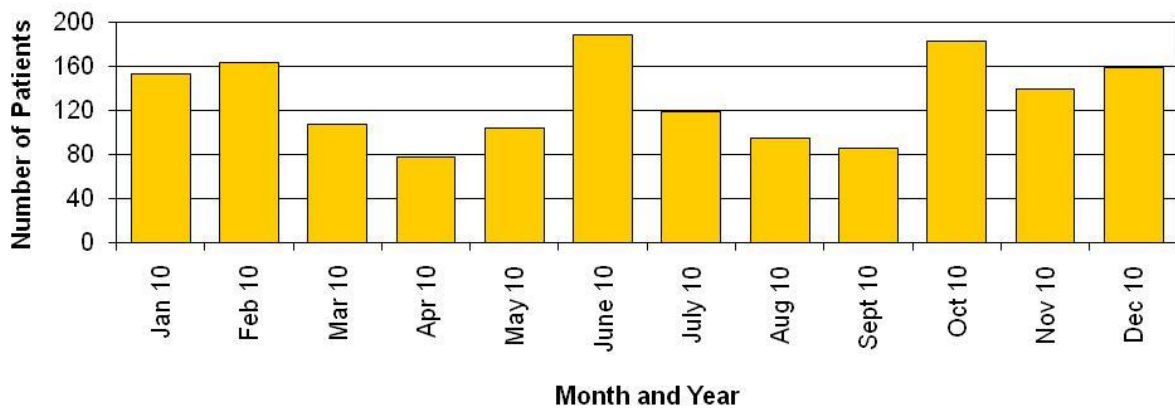
Wound Botulism: Several additional cases since September among black-tar heroin users. Clinical presentation includes weakness, beginning with the face and throat.

Number of ALS Transports, County of San Diego, Jan 2010 - Dec 2010

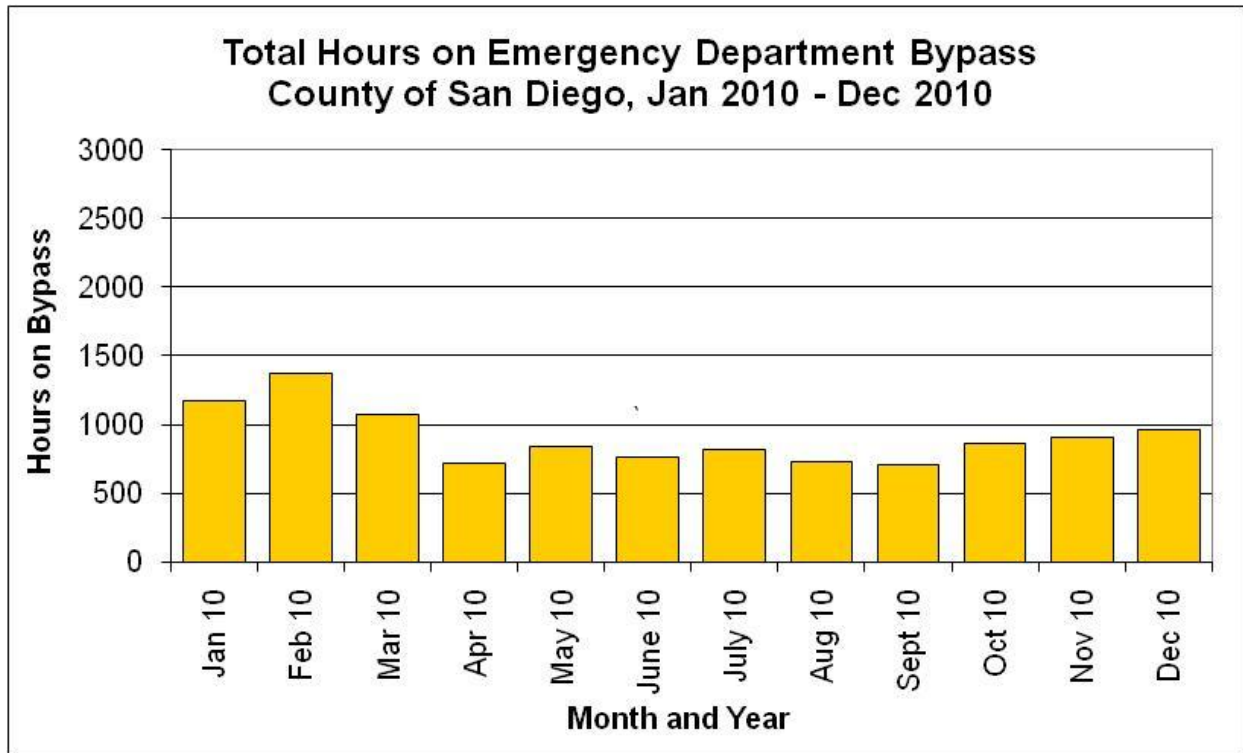


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2010 – Dec 2010 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

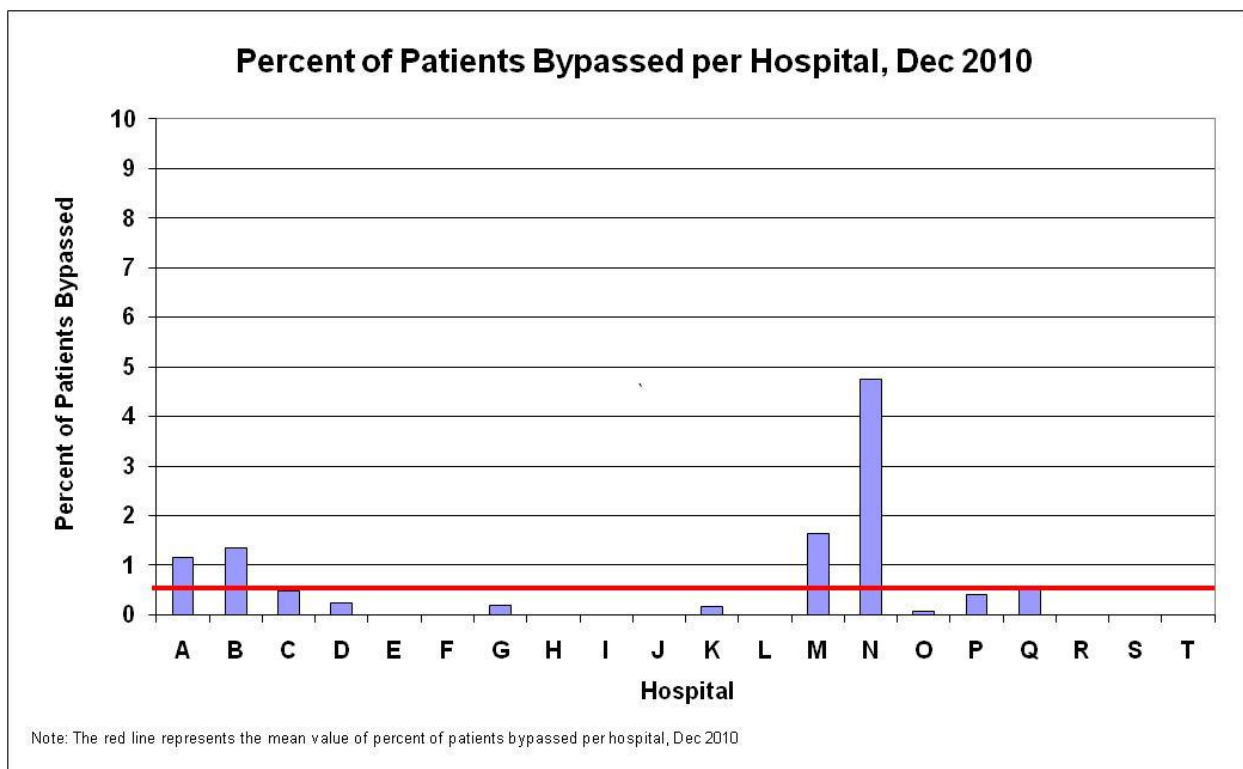
Number of Patients who Bypassed the Requested Hospital, County of San Diego, Jan 2010 - Dec 2010



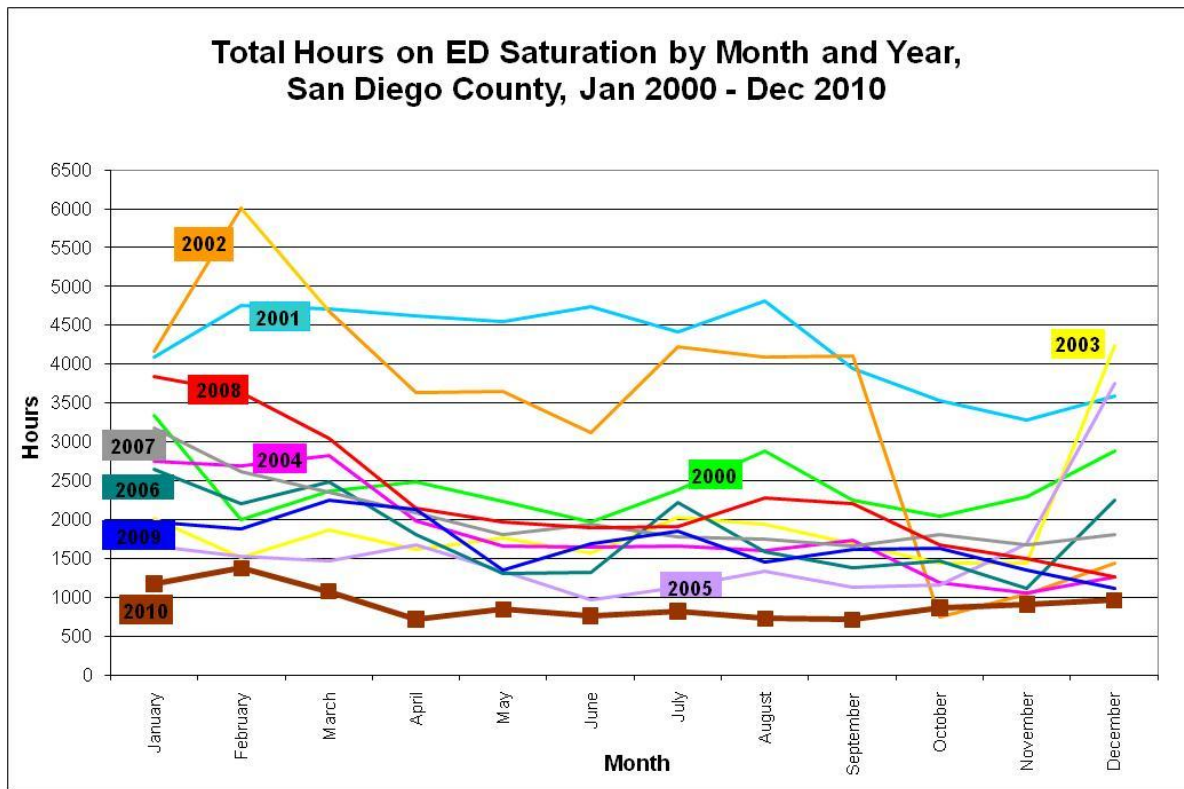
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2010 – Dec 2010 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



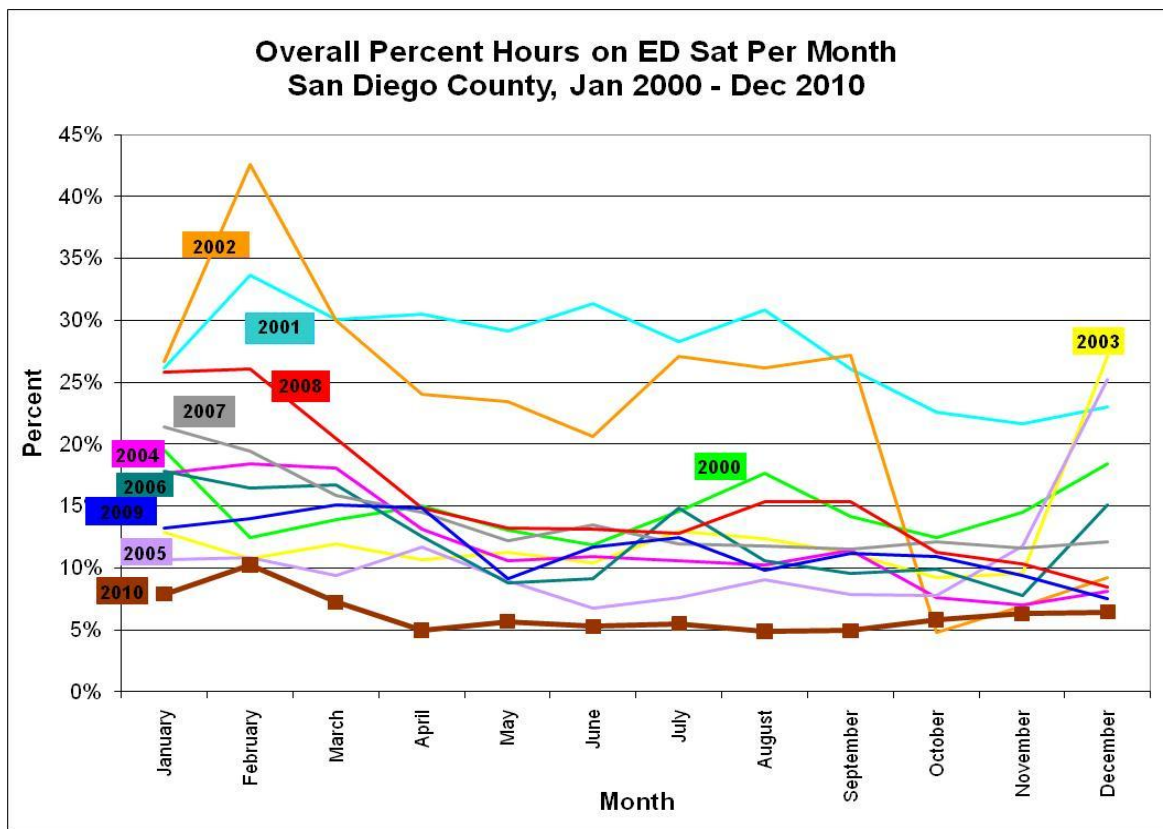
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2010 – Dec 2010



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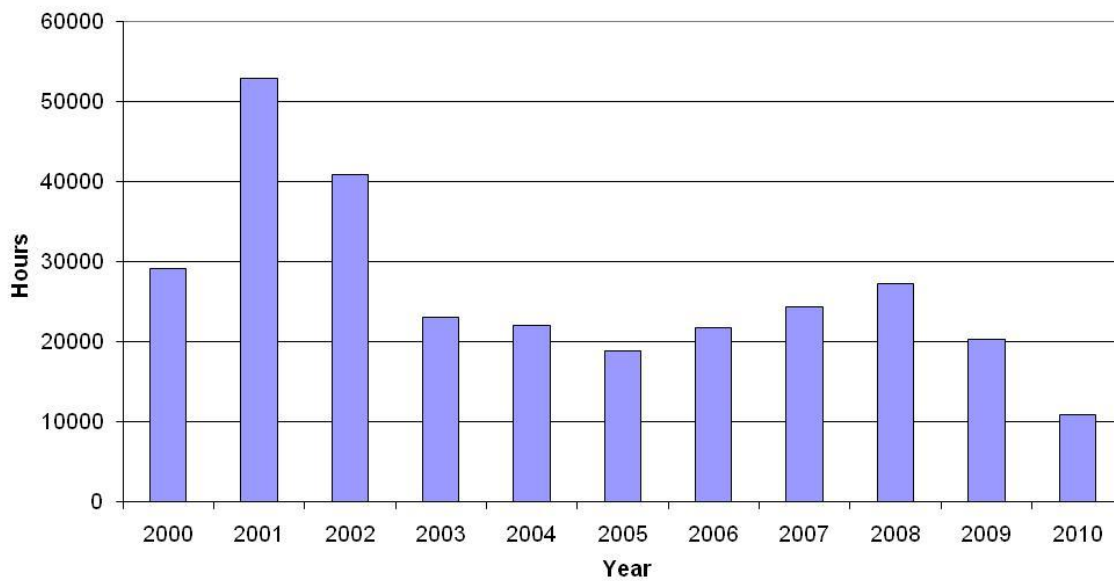


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Dec 2010



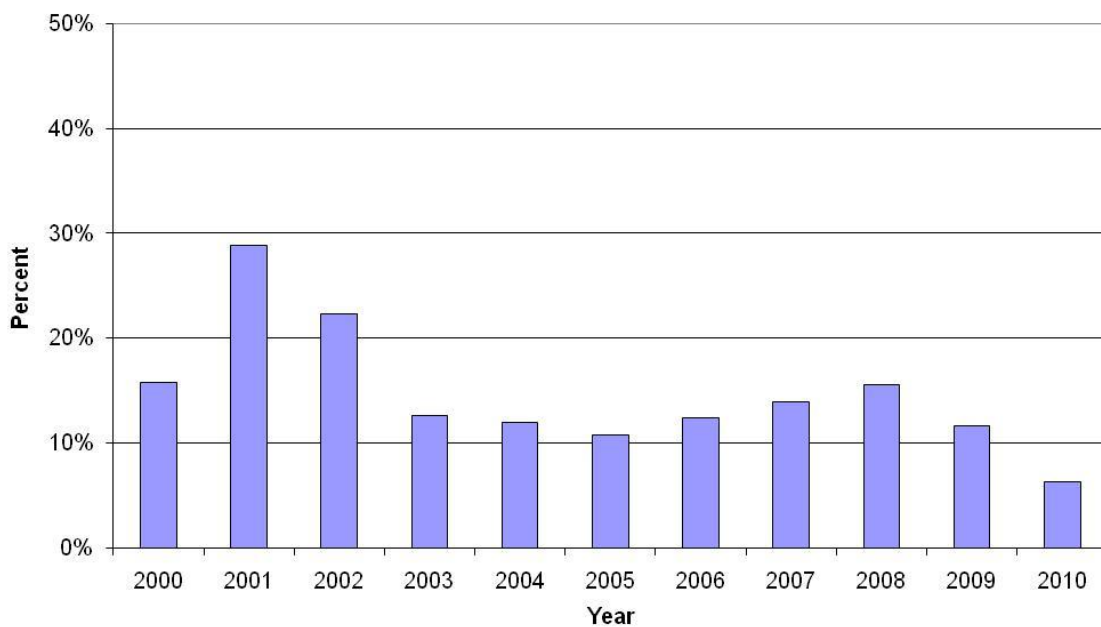
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Dec 2010

**Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year,
San Diego County, 2000-2010**



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2010

**Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year,
San Diego County, 2000-2010**



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2010